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Environment and sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Prendergast (Jamaica), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.21

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Also recalling the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened for the purpose of the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122 to 124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[1]

Further recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,[2]

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session,[3]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fifth special session and the decisions contained therein;[3]

[1] Resolution S/19-2, annex.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/53/25).

2. *Recognizes*, in particular, Governing Council decision SS.V/2 on the revitalization, reform and strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, including the areas of concentration of the activities of the Programme as proposed by the Executive Director in keeping with the spirit of the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as other priority areas of the United Nations Environment Programme as established by the Governing Council at its nineteenth session;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, at Rotterdam on 11 September 1998, of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and takes note of the fact that the functions of the secretariat of the Convention are jointly performed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme as an interim arrangement pending the final decision to be taken by the parties of the Convention on the location of the secretariat;

4. *Welcomes also* the holding of the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an internationally legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants which took place in Montreal, Canada, in June 1998, and further welcomes the positive role played by the Untied Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental management of chemicals and especially the efforts undertaken as the secretariat of the Convention for the negotiations on a convention on persistent organic pollutants;

5. *Emphasizes* that the United Nations Environment Programme has been and must continue to be the principal United Nations body in the field of environment and that its role is to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

6. *Welcomes* Governing Council decision SS.V/6, as well as the decisions of the April 1998 meeting of the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility and the October 1998 Global Environment Facility Council meeting regarding the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environmental Facility and welcomes further collaboration with the Global Environment Facility on freshwater resources such as the global international water assessment and on activities aimed at combating land degradation as they relate to the focal areas of the Global Environment Facility;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue with the ongoing reform of the Programme and recognizes, as reflected in the Nairobi Declaration, that in order to operationalize its mandate, a revitalized United Nations Environment Programme needs adequate, stable and predictable financial resources, and, in this regard, recognizes the interrelationship between excellence, relevance and cost-effectiveness in programme delivery, confidence in the organization and a consequent increase in the ability of the Programme to attract funding;

8. *Further encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to intensify his efforts to mobilize additional financial resources from other donor sources, as appropriate, in order to support the implementation of the priority areas of the United Nations Environment Programme in line with the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme and subject to the agreement of the Governing Council.